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ELLESMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

- of -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- for -

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To

The Chairman and Members of the

Rural District Council of Ellesmere.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for 1913 as Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Ellesmere.

The Rural District of Ellesmere comprises an area of 51,115 acres. The District is entirely agricultural. There are a few small villages, the largest of which is Baschurch. The District is for the most part undulating, but some portions are very flat. Nearly all the land is under cultivation, and the subsoil is gravel with some clay and drift in places. The population at the last census was 8365. It is now estimated at 8488.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT AND WATER SUPPLY

For the district of Duddleston Heath water from the Liverpool Main has been laid on, the work having been completed during the year 1913.

The difficulty with regard to the Water Supply there, has therefore been satisfactorily solved.

The Village of Cockshutt has an excellent public supply.

The Water supply to Baschurch by wells is not satisfactory from a sanitary point of view, but this will be remedied when the scheme for the drainage of Baschurch has been completed.

The rest of the district is supplied by wells. The quality of the water is, as a rule, good, but many of the wells are badly constructed and insufficiently protected from surface drainage.

These defects are gradually being remedied by action taken under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:

A new sewage scheme has been adopted for Baschurch but a difficulty has arisen with regard to the acquisition of the necessary land. A Committee of the Council has the matter under consideration and action will be taken as early as possible under the circumstances.

In the district generally the isolated houses have no drains, and in cases where the yards are badly paved the accumulation of waste water gives rise to an insanitary condition of affairs. Defects of this kind are gradually being remedied as cases come under notice during inspection under the Housing and Town Planning Act.



## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

As a general rule the houses in the district are provided with privies of varying types. As far as possible closets provided with pails are being substituted for the old class of privy where there are cesspits for the reception of excreta.

Other defects such as want of proper ventilation are dealt with when they are revealed during inspection under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

## SCAVENGING:

No systematic scavenging is possible. Most of the houses have sufficient land attached to them to permit of house and other refuse being deposited without menace to the Public Health.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT

A classified statement of the work done in this connection is appended. The Sanitary Inspector has made 98 inspections of workshops during the year and 110 inspections of cowsheds and milk sellers premises. The total number of visits made to Houses in connection with the Housing and Town Planning Act and in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Disease is 107.

## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There are no Factories in the District. Section 22 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act 1890 is not in force. There are nine bakehouses on the Register. They are frequently inspected and are in good sanitary condition. There are no underground bakehouses, no common lodging houses or offensive trades.

SCHOOLS. These are in good sanitary condition. The medical inspection of school children is under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health. There is no provision for treatment of the defects in health revealed by inspection.

## FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY. There are no regulations in force. There are 45 cowkeepers and milk sellers on the register and the premises are in every case inspected twice annually. The dairies, cowsheds and milkshops are clean and sanitary, and the conditions of milk supply are good.

(b) OTHER FOODS. No routine inspection is practised. No carcasses or parts of carcasses have been condemned for Tuberculosis. The number of slaughter houses on the register is six. They are frequently inspected and are in good sanitary condition. There are no byelaws in force.

(c) SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT. There have been no prosecutions under this Act.

## HOUSING:

A statement of work done under the Housing and Town Planning Act is appended. Thirty eight inspections were made during the year. No closing or demolition orders had to be made.

The General character of the defects found were defective





water supply, closet accommodation, drainage, ventilation and light, and bad paving of yards. There is a shortage of working class cottages in the district, particularly in Baschurch. In that district **20** new cottages at least are required.

#### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of notifiable Infectious disease occurred during 1913.

Diphtheria	2
Erysipelas	2
Scarlet Fever	29

There were two outbreaks of Scarlet Fever. One occurred in the spring in Ellesmere College and was confined to it. In this case infection was probably introduced from a source outside the district. The other outbreak occurred in the months of September, October and November. The cases were wide spread and no common source of infection was discovered. Scarlet fever was very prevalent all over the country at the time and the local outbreak was probably part and parcel of the wide spread epidemic then occurring.

Disinfection is carried out by the Inspector in person. The Wem Steam Disinfecting Apparatus may be had for use when required. There is no isolation hospital in the District and it is to be hoped that one may be provided in the near future, as isolation of infectious cases is practically impossible in the homes of the poor.

#### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 9 cases of Tubercular disease of the lungs and 6 of other forms of Tubercular Disease have been notified to me. The number of cases actually existing at the end of the year in the district was

Tubercular Disease of Lungs.	14
Other Forms of Tubercular Disease.	4

The cases are visited on notification and patients and relatives instructed as to methods of preventing further spread of the disease. Suitable cases may be admitted for treatment to the Shirlett Sanatorium. The County Scheme for the treatment of Tuberculosis will soon be in full working order and much more will then be done in the way of treatment and prevention.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY:

The number of deaths of infants under 12 months belonging to the district was 12, giving a rate per thousand of births of 72.72 which is slightly lower than that of 1912. Four deaths were due to congenital debility, the result of prematurity of birth. Of the others, one child died of whooping cough, one of meningitis, three of convulsions, one of Bronchitis, one of enteritis and one from other causes.

#### VITAL STATISTICS:

During the year there have been 165 births, giving a birth rate of 19.43 which is slightly higher than that of last year. The number of deaths registered in the district was 88. To this figure must be added 18 of residents who died outside the district. The total number of deaths belonging to the district is therefore 106 and the rate is 12.48 which is slightly higher than that of 1912.





The ages at which death occurred are as follows:-

Under one year	12.
Between 2 and 5.	1.
" 5 and 15.	2
" 15 and 25	5
" 25 and 45	6
" 45 and 65	18
From 65 upwards.	62.

Twelve deaths were due to cancer, otherwise the causes of death reveal nothing of particular interest.

In conclusion I have to state that on the whole the conditions as regards the Public Health in your district are satisfactory.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. SIBBALD SCOTT.

